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(71) Applicant (*for all designated States except US*): **ER-REGIERRE S.p.A.** [IT/IT]; Via Francesco Baracca 19, I-24060 SAN PAOLO D'ARGON (IT).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (*for US only*): **FERRARI, Massimo** [IT/IT]; Via Antonio Locatelli 7, I-24069 CENATE SOTTO (IT). **ZINETTI, Fabrizio** [IT/IT]; Via Valle 7, I-24060 CASAZZA (IT). **BELOTTI, Paolo** [IT/IT]; Via Cesare Battisti 5, I-24060 SAN PAOLO D'ARGON (IT).

(74) Agent: **GERVASI, Gemma**; NOTARBARTOLO & GER-VASI S.p.A., Corso di Porta Vittoria 9, I-20122 MILAN (IT).

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(54) Title: PROCESS FOR PREPARING RALOXIFENE HYDROCHLORIDE

(57) Abstract: Process for preparing raloxifene hydrochloride with a purity greater than 98% and low aluminium content comprising the following stages a) demethylation of 6-methoxy-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)benzo[b]thiophene in pyridine and hydrochloric acid to obtain 6-hydroxy-2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)benzo[b]thiophene in pyridine hydrochloride, b) acetylation of 6-hydroxy-2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)benzo[b]thiophene with an acetylating agent to obtain the corresponding 6-acetoxy-2-(4-acetoxyphenyl)benzo[b]thiophene, c) acylation of 6-acetoxy-2-(4-acetoxyphenyl)benzo[b]thiophene with 4-(2-piperidinoethoxy)benzoylchloride hydrochloride with aluminium trichloride in halogenated solvent to obtain 6-acetoxy-2-(4-acetoxyphenyl)-3-[4-(2-piperidinoethoxy)benzoyl]-benzo[b]thiophene, d) hydrolysis of 6-acetoxy-2-(4-acetoxyphenyl)-3-[4-(2-piperidinoethoxy)benzoyl]benzo[b]thiophene according to the following operating conditions: d1) treatment of 6-acetoxy-2-(4-acetoxyphenyl)-3-[4-(2-piperidinoethoxy)benzoyl]benzo[b]thiophene with alkaline hydroxide in alcohol solvent, d2) acidification of the product obtained in the preceding stage (d1) with a strong acid, to obtain the corresponding raloxifene salt with the strong acid, characterised in that the strong acid used in stage (d2) is concentrated hydrochloric acid.

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